

JANUARY 29, 1976

ELECTION 76: A HARD DAY'S CAMPAIGNING

ANNCR:

THE NATION'S FIRST PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION -- IN NEW HAMPSHIRE -- IS LESS THAN ONE MONTH AWAY. AND THE CANDIDATES HAVE DESCENDED ON THE STATE IN FULL FORCE IN THEIR SEARCH FOR SUPPORT. IF THERE IS ONE QUALITY THAT THE CANDIDATES -- REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRATIC -- DISPLAY IN COMMON, IT IS STAMINA. VOA CORRESPONDENT RON PEMSTEIN SPENT THE DAY WITH ONE OF THE CAMPAIGNERS -- DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN MORRIS UDALL -- AND HERE IS HIS REPORT:

VOICE:

THE WEATHER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THIS TIME OF YEAR, TO PUT IT KINDLY, IS MISERABLE. IT'S COLD, IT SNOWS, AND WHEN THE TEMPERATURE RISES, IT RAINS AND TURNS THE SNOW TO SLUSH. CONGRESSMAN MORRIS UDALL IS FROM ARIZONA IN THE SOUTHWEST, WHERE IT'S WARM AND SUNNY, EVEN IN THE WINTER. BUT HE WANTS TO BE PRESIDENT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE IS THE NATION'S FIRST TEST OF STRENGTH AMONG CONGRESSMAN UDALL AND HIS HALF DOZEN RIVALS. SO AT SEVEN-THIRTY IN THE MORNING, THE CONGRESSMAN STANDS OUTSIDE A FACTORY IN THE TOWN OF NASHUA, SHAKING HANDS WITH WORKERS AS THEY GO IN. AT NINE O'CLOCK, HE'S AT A SHOE FACTORY, TOURING THE BUILDING, SHAKING HANDS WITH ALMOST ALL OF THE THREE HUNDRED EMPLOYEES. FOR THE WORKERS, THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL. JIMMY CARTER AND SERGEANT SHRIVER HAVE ALREADY BEEN TO THIS FACTORY AND CONGRESSMAN UDALL IS JUST ONE MORE POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT. THEN, UDALL GOES TO TWO RADIO STATIONS FOR INTERVIEWS BEFORE HIS CAR

CONVOY HEADS NORTH ON THE SLIPPERY HIGHWAY TO MANCHESTER, THE STATE'S LARGEST CITY. HIS STAFF HAS SET THIS TIME ASIDE FOR A RELAXING LUNCH, IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EXHAUSTING DAY. BUT A TELEPHONE CALL COMES FROM WASHINGTON. CONGRESSMAN UDALL'S VOTE IS NEEDED IN CONGRESS THE NEXT DAY ON IMPORTANT LEGISLATION. HE IS TOLD ONE OR TWO VOTES WILL DECIDE THE ISSUE. REGRETFULLY, THE CONGRESSMAN CANCELS HALF OF THE NEXT DAY'S CAMPAIGN IN THE STATE TO GO TO WASHINGTON. OH, TO BE JIMMY CARTER, HE SIGHS, SPEAKING OF HIS RIVAL WHO DOESN'T HOLD A CURRENT OFFICE. AS IT TURNS OUT, THE VOTE IN CONGRESS IS NOT SO CLOSE.

HIS LUNCH HALF FINISHED, UDALL GOES OUT ON THE ICY STREET SHAKING HANDS, GOING INTO TAVERNS, RESTAURANTS, STORES -- ANYWHERE HE CAN FIND PEOPLE. SOME VOTERS ASK HIS POSITIONS ABOUT ISSUES THAT CONCERN THEM -- JOBS, ENERGY SUPPLY, CRIME, ELECTION REFORM. ON EACH PROBLEM, THE CONGRESSMAN GIVES A QUICK SUMMARY OF HIS VIEWS; FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE RARELY MENTIONED. THEN, IT'S BACK INTO THE CAR TO DRIVE IN FREEZING RAIN TO CONCORD, THE STATE CAPITAL, FOR TWO SPEECHES, FOLLOWED BY QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSIONS, USUALLY THE SAME QUESTIONS AND THE SAME ANSWERS.

DARKNESS FALLS, THE UDALL CONVOY MOVES ON; A SOCIAL RECEPTION, A TELEVISION INTERVIEW, A RADIO INTERVIEW, AND BY EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE CONGRESSMAN IS STANDING IN FRONT OF SEVERAL HUNDRED STUDENTS AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE. HE SEEMS TO DRAW NEW STRENGTH FROM THE CHALLENGE OF ENLISTING THE STUDENTS TO HELP IN HIS CAMPAIGN. THERE

IS A FINAL RECEPTION AND THE SIXTEEN-HOUR CAMPAIGN DAY IS OVER, TO BE RESUMED WHEN UDALL AWAKES AT FIVE-FIFTEEN THE NEXT MORNING.

THE STAMINA OF THE CAMPAIGNER IS AMAZING. THROUGH THE DAY, CONGRESSMAN UDALL NEVER LOST HIS WIT OR HIS TEMPER. WHY DOES HE DO IT? WHY DO THEY ALL DO IT? BECAUSE NEW HAMPSHIRE IS THE FIRST TEST, AND IF A MAN FAILS HERE, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY MORE CHANCES ARE LEFT?

/L/PBM